

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management**

**Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency**

**Updated: November 19, 2014**

**Situational Awareness Report  
Ebola Monitoring Activities**



# **Situational Awareness Report: Ebola Monitoring**

November 18, 2014

Report Number 3

## **Current Confirmed Cases**

<b>Massachusetts:</b>	There are 0 confirmed cases in Massachusetts
<b>New England:</b>	There are 0 confirmed cases in New England
<b>National:</b>	There are 0 confirmed cases in the U.S.
<b>International:</b>	The disease continues to affect the populations of Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia. CDC recently added Mali to the list of affected countries. As of November 14th the WHO reports: Total Cases: 14383; Laboratory-Confirmed Cases: 8892; Total Deaths: 5165

While there are no cases of Ebola in Massachusetts, and the risk remains extremely low, one of our most important responsibilities for the Commonwealth is preparedness.

Massachusetts continues to prepare for the low, but present risk of Ebola based on facts, science and guidance from experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), working with our partner agencies, have held numerous briefings with media and the Legislature, conducted conference calls with nearly 5,000 health, public safety and emergency management personnel, and used the state alert network and social media to reach tens of thousands of residents across the Commonwealth to educate them about Ebola.

## **Massachusetts Ebola Unified Command:**

- Several workgroups were established several weeks ago to coordinate planning efforts by MDPH and MEMA. These workgroups will continue to meet as needed throughout our planning efforts.
  - **Public Safety Leadership**
  - **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
  - **Training**
  - **Transportation**
  - **Legal Working Group**
  - **Law Enforcement Regional Response Working Group**

## **Department of Public Health:**

Commissioner Bartlett and the OPEM Deputy Director met with staff at Baystate Medical Center last week to review their plans to accept and treat a patient infected with Ebola. Baystate Medical Center is one of 7 hospitals within the Commonwealth that have agreed to serve as a treatment center for any Ebola cases that present.

- Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM)
  - On November 13<sup>th</sup> OPEM sponsored the weekly Ebola update call for public health, healthcare, public safety, colleges and universities, community health centers, EMS and other partners.
  - OPEM continues to receive questions via the newly created email address, [AskEbola@state.ma.us](mailto:AskEbola@state.ma.us). People are being encouraged to continue to submit questions they may have on Ebola, report PPE shortages or concerns or any other issues related to Ebola. As of Nov 17<sup>th</sup> over 85 messages had been received and responded to.
- Bureau of Infectious Disease (BID)
  - The State Epi-on-Call is available to assist with any specific questions pertaining to follow-up with individuals identified as at risk for developing Ebola virus disease and guidance regarding isolation and quarantine as indicated.
  - For assistance in assessing whether an individual meets the criteria for a suspect case of Ebola individuals are asked to call the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617-983-6800 (24/7 Epi-on-Call line).
  - Staff from BID have attended the following meetings and presented on Ebola during the past week.
    - Public Health Council Meeting – presentation also included staff from OPEM and HSLI
    - Lowell CHNA – presentation was for healthcare and human services providers
    - Northern Essex Regional Emergency Planning Committee
    - Massachusetts Medical Society Committee on Public Health
- Hinton State Laboratory Institute
  - Number of Ebola tests that have been conducted to date: 4, all negative.
  - On November 12<sup>th</sup> staff from the New Hampshire LRN Public Health Laboratory (PHL) visited the MA PHL to learn Ebola testing best practices; discuss safety risk assessment; safety training; PPE; waste management; proficiency assessment.
  - On December 18<sup>th</sup> a Packaging & Shipping: Division 6.2 Hazardous Materials course will be conducted for hospital personnel.

## **Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency**

MEMA continues to be actively engaged with public safety partners on various Ebola preparedness activities.

MEMA and MDPH, in coordination with the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, developed guidance for law enforcement officers regarding their legal authorities to detain a person who may be sick with Ebola, and to enforce quarantine orders. This guidance has been posted on the MEMA and MDPH Ebola websites.

The PPE Working Group updated the statewide PPE recommendations for first responders by expanding the standards for coveralls to better ensure availability of PPE in the current marketplace. The updated guidance has been posted on the MEMA website.

MEMA continues to work with the Law Enforcement Regional Response Working Group to finalize a Plan for regional law enforcement response to individuals who have or are suspected to have Ebola and require law enforcement intervention. Under the Plan, the Department of Fire Services (DFS) will provide training in the use of PPE to the State Police and police officers assigned to regional emergency response teams, and caches of PPE for the trained officers will be stored on DFS's regional hazardous materials response trucks. Hazardous materials response teams will deliver the PPE to a scene and supervise the donning and doffing of the PPE. DFS will supply the PPE to the regional caches using state homeland security funds repurposed to it by MEMA and EOPSS.

MEMA continues to post information for the public safety community about Ebola on its website at [www.mass.gov/MEMA](http://www.mass.gov/MEMA). Public safety personnel should check the website on a regular basis for informational bulletins, advisories, and guidance on managing suspected or diagnosed cases of Ebola.

### **Upcoming Activities:**

- The next weekly statewide Ebola update call is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

### **State Guidance Issued:**

*\*Please note that some of the guidance below will be updated in the coming days to reflect the new travel and monitoring guidance from the CDC related to Mali and the recent cases seen there*

- Information for Clinicians
  - [Clinical Advisory: Management of Suspected Ebola Virus Cases or Contacts – UPDATED 10/22/2014](#)
  - [Screening Tool for Evaluating Risk of Ebola Virus Exposure](#)

- [Checklist for Collection, Handling and Packaging of Suspect Ebola Samples](#)
- [Laboratory Risk Assessment – Revised August 25, 2014](#)
- [Laboratory FAQ - Ebola Virus \(Updated 10/20/2014\)](#)
- Information for First Responders
  - [Guidance for EMS Providers](#)
  - [Legal Guidance for Law Enforcement](#)
  - [Personal Protective Equipment Guidance for First Responders](#)
  - [Municipal Police Training Committee \(MPTC\) Guidelines for Police Officers](#)
  - [Department of Fire Services \(DFS\) Guidelines for Potential Infectious Disease Response - Personal Protective Equipment Donning and Doffing](#)
  - [Protocol for First Responders to Obtain Immediate Assistance from MDPH](#)
- Information for Local Boards of Health and Municipalities
  - [Checklist for Local Boards of Health](#)
  - [Checklist for Municipal Leaders](#)
  - [Plan for Adopting and Implementing CDC Guidance for Monitoring](#)
  - [Ebola Information for Persons in Home Quarantine](#)
  - [Template Letter to Ebola Contact](#)
- Information for Business
  - [Guidance for Businesses](#)
- Information for Educational Institutions
  - [Guidance for School Nurses](#)
  - [Ebola Advisory for Colleges and Universities](#)
  - [Screening Tool for College and University Health Staff](#)

**For further information please go to:**

- MDPH: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/ebola>
- MEMA: <http://www.mass.gov/mema>
- CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/index.html>
- WHO: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/>
- USDOT: <http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/transporting-infectious-substances>